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for the present, and apparently for all time to come, the ultimate ascertainable facts of material existence and the most rudimentary adjustments of the spiritual life are ranged over against one another as independent and self-explaining groups of phenomena. Hence all efforts to explain the actions of men through direct recourse to merely physical or biological factors must be declared mistaken or inadequate (p. 278).

Hence the causes in terms of which economic theory must in the last resort formulate its results are psychical facts—facts of human motives and propensities.

There is no science possible outside the range of the universal law of causation—not even in the domain of the spiritual life. But the causes at work in the psychical sequence are essentially different from the mechanical ones. And hence it becomes incumbent on a practical science, such as economics, to carry its inquiry, as far as may be needed, into the details of psychological processes (pp. 286–287).

The aim of economics, as of any science, adopting any method, must be the determination of uniformities and laws (pp. 298–307). But the descriptive, empirical generalization of uniformities, simply, must not be accepted as a determination of the laws of the phenomena under inquiry. Normalization and taxonomic schedules are not science in the modern acceptance of the word.

We are no longer content to call empirically ascertained uniformities laws, but only those uniformities the causes of which we have been able to seize and fix (p. 302.) Economics is now in a fair way to become such a science. History and philosophy have brought it back to a realizing sense of the phenomena of collective life; statistics and industrial history have shown the way to a methodologically adequate empiricism; and psychology holds up before the science as its only competent purpose the quest for the substantially decisive causes of all human affairs (p. 309).

T. B. V.

Statistik und Gesellschaftslehre, Zweiter Band : *Bevölkerungsstatistik*. Von DR. GEORG VON MAYR. Freiburg: J. C. B. Mohr, 1897. 8vo. pp. x+486.

THE first volume of Professor von Mayr's work, treating of statistical theory, appeared in 1895, and was reviewed in this JOURNAL. The second volume now comes to us in a large royal octavo volume of 486 pages, being considerably over twice the size of its predecessor. In

spite of this increased volume the author has not been able to carry out his original intention of completing his work in two parts, one devoted to the theory and history, and the other to the practical application of statistics. The present volume is devoted entirely to statistics of population, using this term in its broadest connotation to include such subjects as vital statistics, immigration, or any changes in the character of masses of people capable of statistical measurement. A concluding third volume is promised which will treat of moral, educational, economic, and political statistics.

All persons interested in statistical work cannot but congratulate themselves upon the fact that Professor von Mayr has been led to elaborate his work, and give us a more comprehensive survey of the field of statistics. When one examines the present volume and notes the multitude of features, each one of importance, that have been considered, and how easily most of them might have been given a still more elaborate treatment, he must wonder how the author ever intended to treat of the whole field of practical statistics in a single volume, or how he can possibly cover the remaining departments of moral, educational, economic, and political statistics in another.

Had the author contented himself with preparing simply a treatise on statistical methods and problems, a much briefer space would have sufficed. He has, however, done much more than this. Professor von Mayr has not only given us a scientific discussion of statistical problems, but has incorporated with it tables giving the more important facts that have been collected and reduced to orderly statistical form regarding the questions under consideration. These tables thus serve the double purpose of imparting statistical information and of furnishing practical illustrations of the methods and principles discussed. Following each section, moreover, is a most complete bibliography of authorities, in which is specified, not only the titles of works referred to, but the particular passages or pages wherein the subjects are treated. The same method was pursued in the first volume, and it is doubtful if a more satisfactory bibliography of statistical works is anywhere afforded than in these two volumes of Professor von Mayr's work.

Where there is so much of interest the reviewer finds it difficult to single out particular points for comment. Different persons will find different features of the most importance as they happen to relate to questions in which they are particularly interested. To us it would seem that those sections relating to death rates, and particularly the

portion concerned with the establishment of death tables, or probability of life tables, according to ages, are of especial interest, treating as they do of the very foundations upon which all life insurance must rest. With the growth of the insurance of workingmen against old age and invalidity, the problems here involved are becoming of increasing importance. Professor von Mayr devotes nearly forty pages to this subject, and gives us a very critical consideration of the requirements of tables of death rates and the various methods that can be employed for their construction. The paucity of American contributions on this subject makes the treatment here given all the more timely and acceptable.

Not the least praise should be given to the form or manner in which the information has been presented. Careful attention has evidently been given to this point with the result that a most methodical arrangement of the material in chapters, heads, and sub-heads has been obtained. Each subject is treated in its proper place, and a detailed table of contents makes the reference to any particular point easy. There is also an index. With these excellencies, it is all the more to be regretted that the style of the author is involved in the extreme. It will be difficult for any but the most thorough German scholars correctly to interpret in many places the exact idea that the author desires to convey. As one becomes familiar with his system of sentence construction less difficulty is experienced, but the usefulness of the book for general reference will be curtailed by this fact.

Professor von Mayr has more than fulfilled the expectations that his first volume excited. We know of no other work covering the same ground equal in value to it. It is not a mere survey of the field of statistics, but gives us a real examination of statistical problems in a thoroughly scientific spirit.

WILLIAM F. WILLOUGHBY.

Industrial Experiments in the British Colonies of North America.

By ELEANOR LOUISA LORD. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1898. 8vo. pp. vii + 154.

A MONOGRAPH based chiefly on the documents of the board of trade, now in the public record office, London. The author treats at some length the many efforts of the home government to force the colonists into manufacturing naval stores, especially tar and pitch for